

tolity of competing, conferred upon incompetent pretenders: the meaning of the address is no longer obscure. In every imaginable instance, where the erection of national structures has been thought of, the claims of our native architects have been refused any recognition, save, indeed, upon the ignominious condition of becoming, as it were, journeymen to some alien empiric, whose works are a sufficiently eloquent reproof to the taste and judgment of his employers, and a reproach to the spirit of the country, which quiescently permitted the imperial principle of centralization to attain such a mischievous climax. We do not desire to speak mystically on this subject: we have unfortunately before us proofs too plain and palpable of the truth of these propositions.

His Excellency may very well express his astonishment (and we trust it is unaffected), that the talent which could have produced the many beautiful buildings which are scattered over the face of the country, should be retarded and disheartened in its efforts at advancement; but so it is, and so will it continue to be, unless and until the lever of public opinion is energetically applied to the evil, and the unquestionable right of Irishmen to compete for works, which are to be erected at our own expense, recognised and asserted.

"When the new poor law was about to be introduced, and a vast number of work-houses were required to be erected—were our native architects invited or permitted to compete for them?—no such thing! A gentleman was brought over from England, utterly unknown even by name in this country, and without, we think, the proper qualifications for the task; yet, *mirabile dictu*, he is announced as the 'Omnibus' architect, under the influence of whose wand a myriad of work-houses are to spring into simultaneous existence in every part of the kingdom. Remonstrances were addressed to the Government—the manifest folly, and mischief, and injustice of the proposed appointment were presented to them; but all to no possible purpose: sites were selected without any reference either to the rate-payers or the guardians—plans and specifications were duly prepared by Mr. Wilkinson for his subordinates, and the works commenced. What was the result?—1st. The erection of a class of buildings wholly at variance with common architectural propriety, and adapted to the purposes of their construction, as well as to the character of the country. 2dly. The inflicting upon the rate-payers the payment of an enormous sum, 'dehors' the estimated expense of the buildings, by reason of the false calculations and estimates negligently made. 3dly. Litigation consequent upon the refusal of the guardians of several unions to raise the sums required for the completion of the works; and lastly,—erecting the necessity of an application to Parliament for a very enormous sum, in addition to that originally stated in the estimates. A commission was appointed to inquire into this shameful job, and to report upon the works in the several parts of the country. We believe this commission did make a report, but it was not convenient to publish it, and thus that creditable affair ended."

"We could pursue this train of reflection further, but we shall reserve ourselves, until we see what the Government will do as to the Lunatic Asylums and other buildings of a public description, which are to be speedily erected in Ireland. Will they profit by what has occurred? or will they not?—In any event, we would counsel the 'Royal Institute of Irish Architects' to bring the matter at once before the Earl of Clarendon—they will culpably forego the opportunity which his reply to their address offers them, if they hesitate to do so."

**MALLEABLE GLASS.—AN EQUIVALENT TO.**—Professor Schoenhein, who invented the gun-cotton, is stated in the *Revue Scientifique et Industrielle* to have, to a certain point, discovered malleable glass! He renders paper paste (papier mâché) transparent by causing it to undergo a certain metamorphosis, which he calls catalytic, for want of a more intelligent term. He makes of this new paper, window-panes, vases, bottles, &c., perfectly impermeable to water, and which may be dropped on the ground without breaking, and are perfectly transparent.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

## IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITY.

ONE object of the Act passed end of last session of Parliament, for "Improvements in the City of London," being "to widen Queen-street by taking down the houses and buildings on the east side of the same street between Little St. Thomas Apostle and Upper Thames-street," the "Corporation are empowered to take the burial-ground of the parish of St. Thomas the Apostle" for the purposes of the Act. Yet for all that, at the end of the schedule it is stated in a note, that "no part of the burial ground of St. Thomas the Apostle is to be taken without the consent in writing of the Lord Bishop of London;" so that the corporation are "empowered" by law to do what the bishop may defy both them and the law to do. And moreover forth comes a demurrer, the rector of 'Little St. Thomas,' to wit, who says he "can never be reconciled to such an act of desecration," and accordingly intends not only to advise the bishop not to give his consent, but to "take the sense of the new Parliament on the propriety, decency, and duty of repealing so much of the Act as authorizes the throwing my churchyard into the street, &c." If the churchyard belong to the rector, his 'vested rights' have certainly, in all appearance, been somewhat cavalierly dealt with; but in these enlightened days when 'consecration' of city churchyards by the vested authorities means turning out the poor old rotten bones ere the flesh be off the limbs or the hair off the head, or ere either flesh or bones be allowed to 'rest in their graves' until they fairly rot away, far less until the time appointed; and when the same authorities 'authorize the throwing' of the very human remains themselves, thus 'consecrated,' out of the churchyard 'into the street,' much sympathy, with that system of 'burial in towns' which fosters such abominable practices, cannot even among the members of the 'new Parliament,' with a grave face well be either asked or looked for.—Workmen, we may here observe, have been employed in pulling down several houses in Gresham-street, formerly Lud-lane, in order to carry out the improvements in that quarter. The houses are upwards of 200 years old, and on tablets in the front of each are elaborate busts of a female crowned with a garland of flowers. These have been reserved from sale by the Mercers' Company, and are to be preserved at their hall. In the front of all the new buildings are busts of her Majesty (crowned) in niches.

## NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

**CHRIST CHURCH, Portsmouth,** was consecrated on Friday week. It was begun about a year ago (the foundation-stone having been laid on 12th September, 1846), in a district of South Stoneham parish, and has cost about 3,000*l.*—500*l.* granted by the Incorporated and Diocesan Church Building Societies, the remainder by subscription. The style is the early English, and the architects, as we think we have already observed, were Messrs. Raphael and J. Arthur Brandon: builders, Messrs. Burton, of Lambeth. There are 404 sittings, 252 free.—A distemper painting has been discovered in the ambulatory of Exeter Cathedral, south of the entrance to the Lady's Chapel. It is supposed to have been executed about A.D. 1327-69, but a great part of it has been destroyed.—The new market-hall, at Melksham, was opened on 14th instant. The building is said to be a commodious and spacious structure.—The church of Llanvihangel-juxta-Usk, being rebuilt, was consecrated on Monday week before last. The aisles are separated from the nave by oaken pillars. The roof is open, and the seats are without doors.—The first stone of the Birmingham borough lunatic asylum was to be laid on 29th ult. The architect is Mr. D. R. Hill, of Birmingham.—The county of Cambridge has been singularly unfortunate of late. Our village, Cottenham, had scarcely been devastated by fire, when another, that of Needingworth, near St. Ives, lost 26 houses and the

produce of 300 acres of land, valued at 20,000*l.* and inhabited by about 100 families. The labouring poor, not loaded, are the severest sufferers.—Three gentlemen are said to have lately expressed their wish to present each a handsome stained-glass window, towards beautifying and restoring Ely Cathedral; and a fourth has offered to present another, if the laity of the city will contribute a sum sufficient to purchase a corresponding window. The required sum is only 60*l.*, and a subscription of 10*l.* each has been set on foot, and many dissenters as well as churchmen, have readily responded to the call.—Bottesford Church having undergone extensive repair and alteration, is to be re-opened on 12th inst., by the Bishop of Peterborough. High-backed pews have been replaced by open oak benches with carved heads, many free. An arch in the tower has been exposed by the removal of the singers' gallery, and a carved oak chancel-screen erected. Plaster and paint have been removed, and a distemper painting exposed. The nave and aisle floors have been laid with covered tiles, and the windows re-glazed. A new roof has been placed over the aisles, and the principal entrance will now be through the tower at the west end. The cost of the whole is upwards of 1,700*l.* Messrs. Sharpe and Paley, of Lancaster, are the architects, and Messrs. Broadbent and Hawley, of Leicester, the contractors.—Upwards of 3,000 poor inhabitants of Nottingham, are supplied with water *ad libitum* by the Trent Water-works Company, for about 1*d.* per week to each house of three rooms. The immediate increase of cleanliness and diminution of disease was declared by the medical faculty to have been very great. The system too has been found to be highly advantageous to the saving both of time and morals, when compared with the common fountain system at Newcastle-on-Tyne and elsewhere. The company thus supply on an average 75 gallons for one farthing, delivering the article at all times night and day for a twentieth part of the previous expense.—The old chancel of Hampsham church has been replaced by a new building, ornamented with a Gothic stained-glass window.—Christ church, East Knottingley, the foundation-stone of which was laid on the 17th ultimo, is to be of a somewhat unusual form. The plan is cruciform, but the arms of the cross are not as in cross churches, transepts, but chanceries or chapels springing from the north and south-eastern ends of the nave. The church is to consist of nave, north and south chapels and northern porch, chancel and vestry on the south side. The style adopted is early English, and the walls will be faced with sandstone from Ackworth Moor. The furniture will be of stained deal. The floors of the nave and chapels are to be furnished with open benches, free. There is to be a gallery with rented seats. The designs are furnished by Messrs. Vickers and Hugall, of Pontefract, the architects appointed by the committee. The site has been presented by Mrs. Seaton, a resident of the village, which will now have two churches with schools attached. The opening, according to the *Doncaster Gazette*, is expected to take place about the middle of next June.—I have been boarding in front of the New Exchange, in Albion-street, Leeds, has been removed, and the greater part of the exterior of the edifice exposed to public view. The foundation-stone was laid on 12th November, 1845. The erection is fast approaching completion. The architects are Messrs. Harri and Moffatt, clerk of works, Mr. Donaldson. The upper room is capable of holding about 2,000 persons, and has been already occupied by the brewers. It we are not mistaken, says the *Leeds Intelligencer*, it is intended that the building shall be used as an exchange and club-house. Besides a large public room, and an ante-room on the second-floor, it has a capacious coffee and dining-room, library, &c., on the ground-floor, billiard-room, card-room, smoking-room, &c., in the basement story, with kitchens for cooking, cellars, and all other requisite conveniences.—A grant of 150*l.* from the Education Committee of the Privy Council, has been made towards the erection of two new schools in Ludworth.—A building for literary purposes has been recently erected, at an expense of more than 3,000*l.*, by the inhabitants of Wisbeach, a town with a population of 10,000.